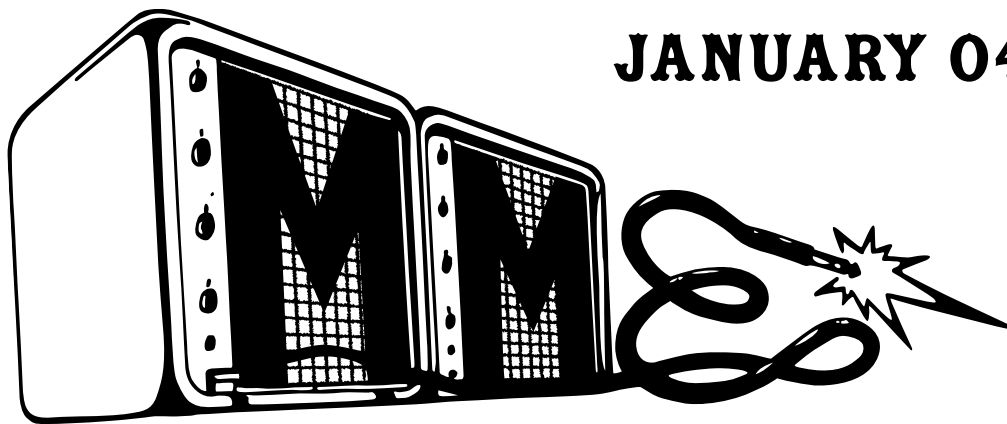


JANUARY 04



MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE EXPRESS

Screaming Keith

ONE DAY ELLIOTT

Stoftype

CHERUBS

TAPT

The Delaners



[UP-C DOWN-C LEFT-C RIGHT-C ABC+START]

FREE AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MM2K**

We're back! Happy New Year!

MME has joined forces with Medway Music 2000 (MM2K) and www.mnmbands.co.uk to bring you comprehensive gig listings, the latest info on music events, workshops, gig and EP reviews and interviews.



Mission:

To give you something to read whilst drinking beer and remind you where you can see bands each month and what local EP's are available.

To let bands know what MM2K is up to, provide info on courses, workshops and opportunities.

Medway is mad about music and there are many people involved in bands. There are also people giving us wicked photographic evidence of the mayhem (Fipzie), people writing reviews and features on local musicians (Laura Patrick - KM, Bagpuss - www.kentindie.co.uk), people running music events attracting big names and putting Medway on the cover of NME (Dean - Tap) and promoters and venues encouraging initiative and investing in Medway music. We're starting to work together now which can only be a good thing. Now Medway has been chosen as a centre for cultural development, there has never been so many opportunities available.

You can share your ideas about the local music scene and how to develop it further at the first ever Medway Music Conference, held from 11am till 3pm on Saturday 14th February, venue TBC. See next page for more details.

NEW TUNES

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST LOCAL RELEASES. JUST OFF THE BURNER...

UpCDownC's new EP 'The Jangling Dischords of Our Nation' is out. Available at gigs, their online shop (www.upcdownc.com/shop), Magic Discs in Gillingham and Sounds Perfect in Chatham.

They are saying that the six new tracks are their best work to date, so it must be extraordinary.

Track listing:

1. Simple Reminder (Anger Is Not A Good Motive)
2. Don't Be Sad That I Am Gone, Just Be Happy That I Was Here
3. They All Came Over To Destroy Me
4. Steve Sloan
5. Comfort Me, I've Lost My Heart
6. Embers



Let us know what you think of their latest sound exploration. Reviewer Martin C, thinks it is one of the best things he has ever heard.

The CD features handmade packaging, with each embossed cover featuring a unique design.

They were suprised to be asked by The Libertines to perform at their all-nighter at the Rhythm Factory in Whitechapel, 5th Dec. Guests included Mick Jones of The Clash and Alan McGee on the decks. They expected to be "propping up the bar in a dark corner looking and feeling completely out of place". UpC DownC versus Scenesters 2003. Nice. If you were there, let us know how they fared alongside the rock n roll.



Opus Trees have been busy recording songs for their new CD. 'The Comeback kid' was recorded at Surrey university with friend Ollie and "Sugar for the soul" is nearly complete.

The recent Opus Trees CD is available to order online for £5 inc. p&p at www.opustrees.co.uk All online orders include 2 Opus Trees badges !

Track listing :

1. Too many fears
2. Sirens
3. Figure of 8
4. Dirty Ripper
5. Vision on
6. First and last



You may have seen **Control of Reason**, supporting The Gilt Trip at the Beacon Court in September, a lager-infused set, full of mistakes, yet utterly brilliant. The guys have sobered up and just cut 1000 copies of the new single, released this month (I've only been waiting for it for five months!)

Track listing:

1. 0
 2. Angel Bite
 3. Eve under Adam
- Singer Dan Erotica explains, "You might be wondering about the first track's title. I thought instead of having a name, why can't it be a shape? So I suppose it can be called anything from Zero to Sphere. It's the listener's choice".

I received this CD just before Christmas and it hasn't left my stereo much. It is addictive. The heavy rock tracks (one and three) are full of unforgettable melodies and Dan's gravelly rock star vocals implant themselves in your memory. They are ideal tunes to play when you are getting ready to go out. Full of attitude. I am not usually fond of rock ballads but track 2 works well and shows the no-nonsense frontman does have a sensitive side!

Singer Dan writes,

"I hope you love it as much as it will love you and if you hate it, it will hate you more than you could ever hate it. It's like a local thug enjoys it random beatings but don't spill his pint".

Are all Dan's like this?

The early play response has been encouraging with requests from radio stations and TV, also from the USA. They have been invited out to Russia to do some promotional TV work with regards to a tour. See next month's issue.



Fuzz have just finished recording their 'best EP to date'.

Provisionally titled as the 'MAGPIES and EAGLES', this recording will show glimpses of how good this band can really be. See review in Feb issue.

Tapt's debut album, "Darkness Begins", is now available to buy online www.freewebs.com/tapt/

Email details of new EPs and demos to nixta@btopenworld.com

Send by the 20th of the preceding month so we have time to get it in for you.

This is your mag, tell us what's new and we'll spread the word.

If you want your demo reviewed, email Claire Fun at clairefun@mnmbands.co.uk - and if you want to review demos, send her your details - so she can build up a database of reviewers. "When sending demo's let me know which track (if any) you'd like us to rip for inclusion on the boombox on mnmbands.co.uk - for download. Any news from the magazine can be discussed in the forum, and any photos to go with the review - post in the gallery (but please say in your review that you've included photos else we might miss them!)"

MM2K HAS WELCOMED FIVE NEW MEMBERS ON BOARD. HERE'S A BIT ABOUT US ALL.

My name is Jay Allen and I am currently Chairperson of MM2K and have been a member for the last 4 years. I have been involved in music in the Medway towns for about 20 years - playing, **running jam nights**, promoting events and engineering live sound for bands.

Vice Chairman Linda Warwick, has worked with **local bands for donkeys!** Promoting and running gigs, also involved in Parklife Festival since its conception.

Claire Chisnall has helped promote and manage bands for a few years now. She is webmaster of www.mnmbands.co.uk, a site which provides gig listings for Kent, downloads of local music, reviews and news. She also updates the MM2K site www.medwaymusic.net. She aims to encourage **gig swaps in London** in 2004.

Nicola Howlett is the Treasurer/Press Officer

I joined last year to see how Parklife was organised and to support local music. I've played (badly) in a band, have friends who gig and love most types of music.

I'm excited that we have people on the committee who want to get stuck in and make it happen this year. We have talent here in Medway rivalling that in the bigger scene and MM2K's aim is to support that.

Whether you're a musician wanting to get a band together, a regular gig-goer who wants to write reviews or a band who wants help - just say.

We have websites who reach everyone interested in music around here and the MM2K mag is here to make sure people know when and where they should be. **Use us.**

If you have any thoughts or suggestions please feel free to email me on:
nixta@btopenworld.com

Maria Bradley

My New Year's resolution for 2003 was to see more live music. I followed the students on the Popular Music course at Mid-Kent college from gigs at Horsted through to Parklife Festival, via a lively St Patrick's night at the Tap n Tin. I even caught some folk/rock at the Sweeps Festival, wandering from one Rochester pub to another on a beautiful Spring afternoon. I got down to the Cosmic Rough Riders at Parklife and, by some miracle, got back up again.

Looking forward to life on the MM2K committee in 2004.

My credentials? I booked Slade for Thames Poly Student Union in 1980. (perhaps I should keep that quiet.) New Year's Resolution for 2004? **Cum on Feel the Noise.** (Ask your Dad).

Dean Hunter

I am on the MM2K committee because the local music scene has reached a peak where there are a lot of good bands, a lot of which are only known locally.

One of my aims is to **get local bands more recognition** not just locally but around the London circuit. With some help in the right places, it is only a matter of time before a big label starts signing these good local acts.

David Wraight

The recent Battle of the Bands at The Beacon Court demonstrated the quality of local musicians but it tended to be for those who are established live performers and while one would want to continue to support them, there are also those who need to be encouraged to take that step. Use the bigger local bands and signed bands to support new local bands.

Encourage promoters and licensees to **make use of the MM2k site** - it is free and used by the community to see what is on locally.

Check MM2K's site at **www.medwaymusic.net** for gig listings and latest news on workshops and more.

See **www.mnmbands.co.uk** for reviews, articles and downloads.
www.parklife festival.org.uk

CORTEX

Simon Philpott & Mark Roberts
Cortex Rock Promotions DJ's/
promoters

Been on the local scene for 3 years, mainly in the Swale area. Have put on large and small music events for Kent bands.

We would like to see a dedicated venue in the area, so bands could practice, perform and record their music.

The music scene in the Medway towns area is a thriving community of very talented people, it's about time it was taken seriously by the community as a whole.

Music is a large part of our lives; I want it to be a large part of other people's as well.

OUR ONGOING PROJECTS:

To provide affordable rehearsal rooms

Monthly MM2K gigs at various venues, incorporating London and encouraging gig swaps

Promoting local acts through this magazine, www.medwaymusic.net and www.mnmbands.co.uk

Discussing opportunities with local radio on behalf of bands

Making contacts within the local and London music community to help promote Medway acts

Building upon the success of Parklife festival



IMPORTANT DATES:

MM2K, the Arts Council and Medway Council present the **first ever Medway Music Conference 2004** on Saturday 14th February 2004 11am-3pm Venue tbc.

A unique event for Medway designed to find out just what the musicians, promoters and audiences of Medway think and want and how others might help to develop a vibrant and successful music scene in the Medway area.

[UP-C DOWN-C LEFT-C RIGHT-C ABC+START]

SOMETHING NOW FOR A CHANGE

The world of music is inhabited by dinosaurs - not Mick Jagger or Mark Knopfler but young bands that simply fit in by playing endless covers of classic tunes. Not that I'm against that - I must confess to owning a few old albums myself, but it is refreshing to hear some genuinely new music. So, UpCDownC caught my imagination in Gravesend at the Red Lion. A venue which brings back memories of having bottles thrown at us by skinheads when I played there many years back.

Times have moved on - no bottles were thrown at UpCDownC and none were needed, since they combine excellent musical substance with just a nod at style, through an understated but aware 'performance'.

What I really like about them is their utter refusal to play

music designed to please. Although it's clear they can sing and could play extended guitar solos, they choose to make their audiences think. You never know, it might catch on?

I particularly enjoyed 'they all came over to destroy me', 'comfort me, 'I've lost my heart' and 'embers', from their new EP 'The jangling dischords of our nation', produced by THE Jim Riley. These pieces build into anthems of truly monstrous proportions. Comparisons are invidious, but names such as Radiohead, Pink Floyd and Lou Reed spring to mind, not because of their musical style, but because of their singlemindedness and determination to perform 'art' in a way that is not elitist. Although leader Chris Garth is studying for a music degree, it is refreshing to see a real musician who appreciates the importance of raw feedback and noise. Metal

machine music indeed!

You are strongly advised to see them before they no longer play in Medway. It may not be long before this happens.

www.upcdownc.com

Piggy ☺



TAPT AT COMMAND HOUSE



DIVERSE AND VARIED SET

TAPT have had a busy six months. They played Parklife Festival, headlined the Art+Ear th Festival in Belgium, recorded their debut album, "Darkness Begins" at

Ranscombe Studios and played numerous gigs throughout Kent and Sussex. Steve also played a solo set at The Cavern Club, Liverpool.

I went along to see them at The Command House.

Support band The Crayons were up first, playing an acoustic set of Beatles-inspired songs. The atmosphere was laid back and the audience clearly enjoyed the well rehearsed set.

TAPT took to the stage, minus lead-guitarist Chris, but their sound was as full as ever and with new bass player James on board, there was new-found enthusiasm within the band. Reworked versions of 'Guided' and 'Leave Me Alone' featured brilliant 3-part harmonies. An improved version of 'Everday'

was made all the more enjoyable by the bubble machine. The audience lapped it up, dancing and clapping along.

New song, 'Shine On' went down as one of the best of the night, with its indie inspired sounds. The crowd clapped along to the Spanish guitar rhythms of 'Darkness Begins'.

They ended their set with 'Lately', a powerful rock song. Matched with Steve's vocals, this was special, goose bumps galore - this was TAPT at their best.

A great night was had by all, look forward to seeing more of TAPT in the New Year.

www.freewebs.com/tapt

Amber ☺

GIG REVIEWS

SCREAMING KEITH, THE DELANERS & CHERUBS AT THE TAP N TIN

ENDS ON A HIGH



Due to feature three bands known (and immensely liked by us), tonight should have been a good send off to 2003. Unfortunately, we got a night of disillusionment and only a touch of class.

First up were **Screaming Keith**, this years (deserved) winners of The Battle Of The Bands. From the outset, the band seemed to be a shadow of what we have come to expect of late. Perhaps we should be thankful that they turned up at all! But their re-workings of usual favourites, with a stronger UpCDownC type influence reared its head, and that's never going to be a bad thing.

Next up were **The Delaners**, perhaps the less said about their set the better. When MME saw them many months ago at Bar M, we were blown away by their live edge and their excellent demo. What we saw this night, was a shambles of a band, sounding more like a poor man's stereotypical pub band than the quality group we had witnessed. With an extra

band member in tow (they now have a keyboard / harmonica player in addition to guitar, bass and drums) and a sound board that took over one corner of the room, neither seemed to lead to positive developments. They even covered Ocean Colour Scene. **Sheesh!**

Get that original vibe back again lads, or trouble us no more with such dross!

Finally tonight were **Cherubs**, who we've watched a few times (including that legendary Libertines reunion gig), although they almost immediately baffle us by introducing themselves as THE Cherubs? They recently toured with The Libertines in Scandinavia and are on the up with talk of being signed.

Their set did not disappoint. With more than a hint of Warsaw/Joy Division/Interpol in their persona, it is unlikely that they will ever be able to do a bad set, and even their guitarist's Stuart Sutcliffe impersonation doesn't irritate us too much when their songs are this good.

The night ends on a high then, but only due to the quality of the deservedly headlining act. The others please take note, both you and us deserve better.

Martin C



CHERUBS



STUCK FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Today, agree to meet someone in 10 years time.

Fill in this coupon and hand it to a stranger or someone you hardly know.

We the undersigned, may only know each other casually, but we hereby agree to meet up in exactly ten years time at (hour) on the (date) 2013 at (place).. In case we have changed beyond recognition, we agree to wear the following identifying features:

In case we have nothing to say to each other, here is a list of >>hot<< 2003 topics to reminisce about:

.
.
.
.

Signed

.

See you in ten years' time.

A NEW DIRECTION

Bar M was busier than normal with a fairly young crowd, suggesting a lot of other folks are missing out on this band. They been around since about '99 and have gone through a few changes as their music has developed. These guys really put their enthusiasm into their music. As for their sound, what do you want to call it- a bit of rock/metal, a bit of punk; a fusion of the two, or something else? Certainly their website claims some major influences, go and have a look.

A great band live, you can even forgive Jamie the drummer for giving his idol as Phil Collins, go and see them or get a copy of their new CD 'A New Direction'.

www.onedayelliott.co.uk

Dave Wraight ☺



ONE DAY ELLIOTT

Email reviews to nixta@btopenworld.com. We would really like to hear from people who regularly attend a particular venue. Also, let us know if you would like us to come and review your gig or be featured within the magazine.

STOFTYPE AT TAP N TIN, CHATHAM

CHALLENGING

This could have been the worst gig they ever played. It just didn't work out for the band or the audience. That is a shame because for those that hung around long enough, there was more than a hint of what the band could be capable of on a good night. The band claim Smashing Pumpkins, Chili Peppers, Muse and System of a Down as some of their influences. They are due back in Medway sometime soon and might be worth looking up for those who like something a little more challenging in their music.

www.stoftype.com

They play at the Hope & Anchor in Islington on Tuesday, 27th January, 2004 with Bloodsun, Blind To and Versus The World.

Dave Wraight ☺





GIG LISTINGS

Fri 2

The Sharpsters + Flying Anvil @ Beacon Court

James Boys @ Bull Inn, Maidstone

Carpetburn + support from Rory @ TapnTin(pool room)

Sat 3

Bad Obsession @ Beacon Court

DJ Krafy presents fisted. stoner/doom rock@ TapnTin
(top floor)

Sun 4

The Interceptors @ Bull Inn, East Farleigh

Gin House @ Royal Albion, Maidstone

Mon 5

Dammit @ The Barge

Jam Session @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burnham

Tue 6

Medway Folk Cellar: Jon Boden & John Spiers + The
Hot Rats Duo @ Central Theatre, Chatham

Weds 7

Bards @ The Barge, jam night. 1st wednesday of the
month, everyone welcome. Free

The BJs Black Horse Inn, Maidstone

Bad Pennies @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burnham

The James Boys @ The Angel Inn, West Malling

Jam nite @ TapnTin (top floor)

Thurs 8

DefZone event @ The Beacon Court £2 with
ran.for.days, Flem and The Raven

Fri 9

Skurge @ Bar M 7pm

Bad To The Bone @ Beacon Court

Steve Winchester @ Black Horse Inn, Maidstone

Live Music @ Royal Albion, Maidstone

The Hot Rats Duo @ The Angel Inn, West Malling

Rob King @ Bull Inn, Maidstone

Sat 10

Morgans Puff Adder @ Oast House, Rainham

Intro 2 + 3 DB's Down @ Beacon Court

Sun 11

The Borrowway Blues Band @ Bull Inn, East
Farleigh

Tangled Web @ Royal Albion, Maidstone

Mon 12

Godless Reds + support @ Feedback Bar M 7pm £2

The Amazing Mr Smith @ The Barge

Jam Session @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burnham

Hullabaloo @ Walnut Tree, Maidstone

Tue 13

Medway Jazz Cellar: Paul Lacey + Ron Bowater
Trio @ Central Theatre, Chatham

Wed 14

Simone @ Black Horse Inn, Maidstone

Live Music @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burnham

Break Thru @ The Angel Inn, West Malling

Thu 15

Eddie And The Hotrods @ Beacon Court

Folk At The Brook: Bully Wee Band @ Brook
Theatre, Chatham

Fri 16...



JANUARY 2004



Yellow Snowe + support @ Feedback Bar M 7pm £1

Joe Cool @ Beacon Court

Mel Harris @ Black Horse Inn, Maidstone

Longstone @ The Angel Inn, West Malling

Blizzard @ Bull Inn, Maidstone

Motion picture soundtrack @ TapnTin (pool room)

Sat 17

Bootled Zeppelin @ Beacon Court Tavern

Tiny Nuns @ Command House

Bands TBC @ TapnTin



Mon 19

The Raven + Support @ Feedback Bar M £2

Band of Two @ The Barge

Thu 22

Julie Ellison @ The King's Head, Rochester

Fri 23

Two Stone Shoes + support @ Feedback Bar M 7pm £1

Skurge @ TapnTin (pool room)

Sun 25

Jazz At The Brook: Kim Collman Quartet @ Brook

Theatre, Chatham

Mon 26

The Labels + support @ Feedback Bar M 7pm £2

Julie Ellison @ The Barge, Gillingham

Tues 27

Stoftype @ Hope & Anchor, Islington with Bloodsun,

Blind To and Versus The World

Thu 29

Tim O'Brien @ Jazz and Blues Cafe, Maidstone

Fri 30

Know/Were + Inkthief + The James sanger Experience

@ Feedback Bar M 7pm £1

CLUB NITES:

Every Friday @ TapnTin - warning:rockets

DJ Tyn-b and the rivals play the best in new

and old indie.alternative.rock.nroll.



VENUES:

The Barge, 63 Layfield Rd, Gillingham.

The Tap n Tin, 24 Railway Street, Chatham.

The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham.

The Beacon Court Tavern, Canterbury Street,
Gillingham.

The Oast House, Granary Close, Rainham.

Bar M, 3 New Road, Chatham, Kent.

Union Bar, 1-9 Pudding Lane, Maidstone.

The Red Lion, Crete Hall Road, Gravesend.

Jazz & Blues Cafe, 110 Week Street, Maidstone.

Gig listings are published free of charge.

Email details of your event, gig or club

night to nixta@btopenworld.com

before the 20th of the preceding month

for inclusion in the latest issue.

Check out www.medway.music.net and

www.mnmbands.co.uk for the latest gig updates

NEXT MONTH...

- Musicians who want to collaborate with others contact us, if this applies to you...
- CD and gig reviews
contact us if you have a new CD, want us to come along to your gig, or if you have any views you want to share on a new local release or gig you attend in January...
- Rehearsal rooms and prices
- Details on Medway's Music Conference

Email **nixta@btopenworld.com**, visit www.medwaymusic.net for magazine download and news, www.mnmbands.co.uk for downloads, chatroom, gig listings and more...



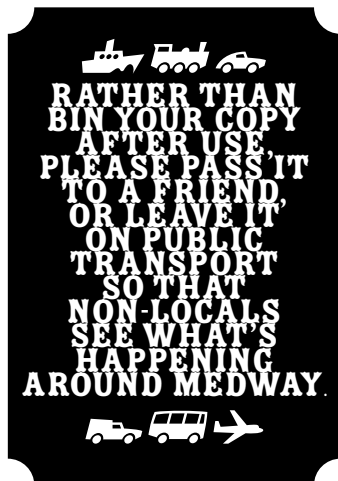
Thanks to the following contributors this month:
Martin C, David Wraight, Carl J, Amber & Piggy

MME is published by Me each month and is distributed throughout the area to places and people that support live music. It is free of charge to you readers, but a big thanks goes out to venue and shop owners for contributing to the production costs.

While every care is taken to provide accurate information, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, no matter how caused. Please check with the venue concerned regarding events, as details can change at short notice.

Copyright Nicola Howlett, Nixta Publications 2004. All rights reserved. No part of the publication can be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior consent of the publisher.

We aim to be fair in everything we write, reviews are written by gig-goers making personal judgements (which do not always match those of the publisher). Go check the talent out for yourself and tell us what you think.



SITES

BANDS...

www.alienglish.com
www.abingerdrive.com
www.callingnova.com
www.freewebs.com/lyca
www.freewebs.com/tapt
www.fuzznroll.co.uk
www.godlessreds.co.uk
http://groups.msn.com/Neonhalo
www.morganspuffadder.com
www.onedayelliott.co.uk
www.opustrees.co.uk
www.orphanweb.net
www.scapa-flow.net
www.thebarbs.co.uk
www.theebillychildish.com
www.thegilttrip.com
www.upcdownc.com
www.wearethemEEK.co.uk

ADVICE AND INFORMATION...

www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/record.html
is a guide to the major record labels
and their subsidiaries
www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic
www.sonymusic.co.uk

DOWNLOADS, GIGS, REVIEWS...

www.medwaymusic.net
www.mnmbands.co.uk
www.kentindie.co.uk
www.hardplace.net
www.consorted.co.uk
www.kentgigs.com
www.skinchimney.com

VENUES...

www.tapntin.co.uk
www.myofficesecretary.com/thebarge

FUN STUFF...

Middle-Earth name generator
www.barrowdowns.com/middleearthname.asp
Unusual gifts at www.bust-ed.co.uk
www.flashyourrack.com
www.yournotme.com

Thanks to Fipzie at
www.fipzie.com for pics



CHECK WWW.MEDWAYMUSIC.NET FOR THE LATEST GIG UPDATES